

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method for service provision from a server connected with ~~a client~~clients via a network to ~~a user~~~~through~~said client, comprising:

judging whether said server ~~becomes~~is accessible by comparing an access number and a submitted access number in response to an access request from ~~said~~a first client among said clients to said server, said access number being incremented and being issued responsive to each request to said server and being unique for said request and said submitted access number being incremented responsive to each completion of providing a service from the said server;

immediately connecting said first client with said server when the server is judged accessible;

suspending ~~said~~an access request of a second client among said clients and displaying information of a number of accesses to said server on said second client, said information of the number of accesses directly or indirectly indicating a number of uncompleted requests according to said unique access number for said access request of the second client and said submitted access number, when the server is judged inaccessible;

displaying an updated said information of the number of accesses ~~being~~that is updated at a ~~fixed~~-time interval according to said submitted access number queried by said second client ~~on~~said client after displaying said information of the number of accesses; and

automatically connecting said second client whose access request is suspended with said server at a time when said server becomes accessible ~~according to a condition, which is~~ judged by based on a determination of accessibility by said second client, the server being accessible when that said access number of said second client ~~becomes~~is less than or equal to said submitted access number after displaying said information of the number of accesses,

wherein said ~~fixed~~-time interval is varied according to said information of the number of accesses and the time interval is set to be longer as a number of clients in an access querying

state increases.

2. (CANCELLED)

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 1, wherein when said server is accessible, information that shows said server is accessible is displayed on said first client before access to said server.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 1, wherein when said server is accessible, a message indicating that said server is accessible is uttered by voice from said first client before access to said server.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A service provision method according to claim 1, wherein when said server is accessible, an E-mail that indicates said server is accessible is sent to a pre-registered mail address of said user before access to said server.

6. (CANCELLED)

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 1, wherein said information of the number of accesses displayed on said second client includes said access number and said submitted access number.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 1, wherein when said information of the number of accesses is displayed on said second client, an estimated time of when said server becomes accessible, which is obtained according to a time varied condition of said information of the number of accesses, is displayed.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 1, further comprising:

requesting a password input from said user before the said server becomes accessible, and allowing access of said second client to said server upon the password input, regardless of said determination whether said server becomes accessible when authorizing that said input password is correct.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 1, wherein when said provided service is for commodity sales, a number of sellable goods in stock is further displayed at the time of displaying said information of the number of accesses on said second client.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 10, wherein said number of sellable goods in stock becomes zero, information that shows the commodity sales of goods is finished is displayed on said second client.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 10, wherein when said number of sellable goods in stock becomes zero, a message that indicates said commodity sales of goods is finished is uttered by voice from said second client.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A service provision method according to claim 10, wherein when said number of sellable goods in stock becomes zero, an E-mail that indicates said commodity sales of goods is finished is sent to a pre-registered mail address of said user.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 1, further comprising:

displaying said information of the number of accesses for said second client accessing to said server upon determining that said server is inaccessible.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method for service provision using a-clientclients connected with a server via a network, comprising:

determining whether said server becomes-is accessible by comparing an access number and a submitted access number via said-a first client among said clients when said first client sends an access request to said server, said access number being incremented and being issued responsive to each request to said server and being unique for said request and said submitted access number being incremented responsive to each completion of providing a service from the said server;

immediately connecting said first client with said server upon determining that said server is accessible;

suspending said an access request of a second client among said clients and displaying information of a number of accesses of said server via said second client upon determining that said server is not accessible, said information of the number of accesses directly or indirectly indicating a number of uncompleted requests according to said unique access number for said access request of the second client and said submitted access number;

displaying an updated said information of the number of accesses via said second client, where the information is updated at a fixed-time interval according to said submitted access number queried by said second client after displaying said information of the number of accesses; and

automatically connecting said second client whose access request is suspended with said server when said server becomes accessible ~~according to a condition, which is judged based on a determination of accessibility~~ by said second client, ~~the server being accessible when that~~ said access number of said second client becomes ~~is~~ less than or equal to said submitted access number after displaying said information of the number of accesses,

wherein said fixed-time interval is varied according to said information of the number of accesses and the time interval is set to be longer as a number of clients in an access querying state increases.

16-20. (CANCELLED)